

**Department of Transportation
Project No. 155-164/165
Rehabilitation of the Oakwood Avenue and Prospect Avenue Bridges
over Interstate 84
Town of West Hartford
Public Information Meeting**

**Wednesday, April 20, 2011, 7:00 p.m.
West Hartford Town Hall, Room 400
50 South Main Street
West Hartford, Connecticut**

Minutes

Present:

Julie F. Georges – Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT)
Mary E. Baker – CTDOT
Louis D. Bacho – CTDOT
Derrick Ireland – CTDOT
Michael J. Mendick – CTDOT
Robert Rowson – Town of West Hartford Department of Community Services
E. Allen Randall – Close, Jensen & Miller, P.C. (CJM)
Rebecca M. Ruitto – CJM
Jeffrey J. Fontaine – CJM
Armando G. Colantonio – CJM
Approximately 5 residents

Presentation:

A presentation was delivered by Ms. Mary E. Baker from the Department, Ms. Rebecca M. Ruitto from Close, Jensen & Miller, P.C., and Mr. Derrick Ireland from the Office of Rights of Way at the Department.

The following items were included in the presentation:

- The projects consist of the rehabilitation of the Oakwood and Prospect Avenue Bridges over I-84 while minimizing disturbance to the traveling public.
- The existing Oakwood Avenue Bridge (No. 01757) is a 200' long two-span, multi-beam structure with an overall width of 53'8" and a minimum vertical clearance of 14'-0" over I-84.
- The existing Prospect Avenue Bridge (No. 01758) is a 227' long two-span, multi-beam structure with an overall width of 61'8" and a minimum vertical clearance of 14'-4" over I-84.

- The bridges were recommended for rehabilitation due to their structural deficiencies and functional obsolescence.
- The proposed bridge rehabilitation projects consist of providing a new two-span superstructure with high strength steel girders. The vertical clearance over I-84 will be increased to 16'-3".
- The proposed sequence of construction was described for the Oakwood Avenue Bridge. Work will be completed in two phases, utilizing alternating one-way traffic, and maintaining pedestrian access throughout.
- The proposed sequence of construction was described for the Prospect Avenue Bridge. Work will be completed in two phases, maintaining one lane in each direction throughout construction with pedestrian access.
- The necessary relocations of the public utilities associated with the projects were described and it was indicated that meetings with the utility companies will be held to coordinate and discuss in greater detail.
- Impacts to private property consisting of slope easements are anticipated.
- The estimated construction cost for each bridge is approximately \$6,500,000. The proposed projects are anticipated to be undertaken using Federal and/or State funds.
- Construction is anticipated to begin in the Spring of 2013 and be completed in the fall of 2014 for the Oakwood Avenue Bridge. The construction of the Prospect Avenue Bridge will follow completion of Oakwood Avenue.
- Ms. Mary E. Baker briefly discussed the scheduling overlap with the Flatbush Avenue bridge construction, stating that the Oakwood Avenue Bridge (No. 01757) may overlap with the Flatbush Avenue project but the Prospect Avenue Bridge (No. 01758) and Flatbush Avenue projects will have no overlap.

Public Comments and Questions:

- Question: The town recognizes the necessity of maintaining the bridges but voices concern over coordination with other projects.
Answer: Coordination is an issue that will constantly be looked at, especially with the overlap of the Flatbush Avenue bridge project. District 1 construction will be overseeing the construction on all the projects.
- Question: The town and residents expressed concern over maintaining and protecting pedestrian traffic during construction.
Answer: It was stated that pedestrian traffic will be maintained throughout the duration of both projects with the public's safety in mind.
- Question: Concerns were expressed over the Flatbush Avenue detour and possible detours for Oakwood and Prospect Avenues.
Answer: Currently both projects are proposed to be completed utilizing stage construction. The Prospect Avenue Bridge will be completed utilizing stage construction but if it is determined that the Oakwood Avenue Bridge can be completed utilizing a detour there will be coordination between the Town and the CTDOT.
- **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.